

SYSTEM OF JAILS IS BARBAROUS

Not a Single Reformatory Feature, Says Board of Charities and Corrections.

NOW EDUCATING CRIMINALS

State Should Own Reformatories Outright, Says Report.

The jail system of Virginia does not contain a single reformatory feature, but, on the other hand, presents a pressing social problem in the education of several thousand young criminals every year according to the annual report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, which was forwarded to the public printer yesterday. The system is described as a relic of colonial days, some of its features going back to prehistoric times. The average county or city jail is described as a "barbarous institution invented primarily as an instrument of torture to meet desperate conditions of undisclosed sizes."

"The Virginia jail system," the report says, "does not contain a single reformatory feature, but, on the other hand, serves to train criminals for life. When a young man enters a jail, even for the most trivial offense, the chances are four to one that he will return again and again for longer periods, until he winds up in the penitentiary."

Health, Crime and Disease.

The prison system is described as quite best-kept jail in the Commonwealth, but the manner of its keeping is all that the board finds to commend. Its location, down in a ravine, surrounded by stables, incinerators and open sewers, is roundly condemned, the report stating that there is not a single reformatory or correctional idea suggested by its location. Like other jails of the State, where all kinds of prisoners are crowded in absolute idleness, the place is described as a "hotbed of disease and contagion, and a constant menace to the health of the community."

The report says:

"Serving time in jail is not usually considered odious or even unpleasant to the criminal. Habitual offenders commit small offenses to find shelter there for the worst of their sins. They are lodged, fed, clothed, kept warm, and even given medical attention when sick, altogether free of cost, or of any effort on their part. They revel in the vile pleasures of low companionship, the telling of indecent jokes and stories, and indulging in other shows of vice."

Health Employment Remedial Agent.

"In such places and in such surroundings, the innocent man or the unfortunate—the man awaiting trial for a crime he did not commit—the refined woman brought into trouble by mental affliction awaiting removal to a hospital, are locked up in jail, with its disgrace, with all its physical and moral perils, its names, horrors. The State entirely ignores the fundamental principle that a healthy employment is a most effective remedial agent."

Chairman S. C. Hatcher reports that the board has continued during the year the investigation into the numbers and condition of the insane, and the department now has on record the names and addresses of 3,611 feeble-minded persons, and estimates that there are in the State at least 2,699 other high grade imbeciles and morons not reported.

The board found many colored children as incorrigible, and has provided homes in 142 respectable colored families for that number of children, of whom only seven have proved incorrigible.

In the special report on the problem of the feeble-minded, the board recommends classes for backward children in primary schools throughout the State; that departments for training of backward children be established in schools for delinquents; that an appropriation be made for a school to be located at the Epileptic Colony for feeble-minded children; that the colony be extensively enlarged to provide for indigent imbeciles and morons; that the colony be separated from the

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She makes it best who, looking after the culinary department, turns her back resolutely upon unhealthy, or even suspicious, food accessories. She is economical; she knows that true economy does not consist in the use of inferior meat, flour, or baking powder. She is an earnest advocate of home made, home baked food, and has proved the truth of the statements of the experts that the best cooking in the world today is done with Royal Baking Powder.

Epileptic Colony, and provision be made for additional buildings.

Care of Inmates.

In regard to a colony for inmates, the board recommends that the General Assembly consider the advisability of establishing such an institution, that it be located on the Glendale Colony farm, owned by the State, and adjoining the Western State Hospital at Glendale, and that the colony be under the general Hospital Board and the superintendent of the Western State Hospital.

The report includes an elaborate study of juvenile courts, based mainly on experience in the Richmond Juvenile Court, and recommends a general law for probation at the discretion of courts of first offenders charged with misdemeanors; a law providing for all non-support cases and cases affecting juvenile delinquency at special sessions of the court having jurisdiction; provision to extract in non-support cases, and a workhouse for delinquent husbands, in which their earnings might go to support their families.

State Should Own Reformatories.

As to reformatories, the board reports that after careful investigation it has come to the conclusion that it is unwise for the State to make appropriations to any institutions except those that are under State control.

In 1916 the report goes on, a careful investigation will be made of the

local institutions for boys, the report indicating the need of large support and of the modern policy of segregation and classification, and strongly recommended State ownership, recommendations which are repeated. This year the board made a careful investigation of the Virginia Industrial Home and School for Girls, located near Bon Air, and its report has been published. "The situation is anomalous," says the report. "The State makes appropriations for this home, which does for Laurel and Hanover Reformatories, yet it has neither voice nor control in the management of its affairs."

Improvements at the State Penitentiary are marked, says the report. The

RAILROAD PEOPLE VERY MUCH AT SEA

Believe, However, That Southern and Coast Line Will Elevate Officers to Presidency.

NEW SERVICE ON SEABOARD

Chesapeake and Ohio to Discontinue Night Sleeper Line From Richmond to Lynchburg.

Railroad men do not believe that the Southern or the Atlantic Coast Line will go elsewhere for a new president, when each has capable material in its own ranks. Both roads have invariably followed the policy of promotion. When President Samuel Spencer, of the Southern, was killed on Thanksgiving Day in 1906, the board promoted Mr. Finley, who was then second vice-president, to the office of president. From the end of the system to the other end, President Finley would leave the Southern to take charge of a big Western line, and that he would be succeeded by E. H. Chapman, vice-president and general manager. Naturally, the rumor has been revived, only, however, as it affects Mr. Chapman, and his name is being most prominently mentioned. Thomas C. Powell, vice-president of the Southern and of the Queen and Crescent and Fairfax Harrison, president of the Monon Route, and a former vice-president of the Southern, are among others whose names are said to be under consideration.

A meeting of the directors of the Seaboard Air Line Railway will be held before December 12 to consider a successor to President Finley. It has been suggested that a selection may be delayed because of the situation arising from the death of President Emerson of the Atlantic Coast Line, a competitor of the Southern.

Atlantic Coast Line people are rather much at sea in speculating on their new president, although they stick to the belief that a man now in the service will be elevated to the highest position.

The death of President Emerson of the Atlantic Coast Line, is expected to further delay the question of erecting a \$1,000,000 passenger station for the joint use of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac and the Atlantic Coast Line on the Hermitage Golf Club site.

Beginning to-morrow, the Seaboard Air Line Railway will establish a new train service to and from the South, which will prove of considerable help to Richmond merchants and jobbers, as it will bring buyers here at a reasonable hour in the morning and take them out again in the evening. The train, which will be operated between Richmond and Columbia, S. C., will arrive here at 5:30 A. M., and will leave at 8:30 P. M., while a passenger can leave Richmond at that hour and he can go straight through to Columbia without change, although there will be no Pullman accommodations. Railroads have found that hundreds of people take long journeys every day without buying sleeper reservations, and the service will be arranged accordingly. Northbound, the new train will leave Norlina at 6:15 A. M.

An act requiring men to convict road forces to work nine instead of ten hours per day.

An act repealing present parole law, which is not effective, and in lieu thereof giving all felons ten days per month for good behavior.

A law permitting courts to release men who are unable to pay fines, and to require them to go to work and to pay such fines and the court expenses in small installments.

Provision to pay convicts working on the public roads 5 cents per day each.

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In the Chesapeake and Ohio schedule of rates to-morrow, the local train for Charlottesville will leave here at 7 A. M. instead of 8:15 A. M. as heretofore, running through daily to Charlottesville, and daily except Sunday to Thoroughgood. Slight changes are made in the departure and arrival of other trains. The operation of a through train from Richmond to Clifton Forge, via Gordonsville, Strasburg and Lynchburg, with a Richmond-Lynchburg sleeper, will be discontinued. This train, leaving here at 11 P. M., will carry sleeper to Cincinnati only.

The Norfolk and Western Railway is now operating all-day trains between Richmond and Norfolk, leaving here at 5 A. M. and 3 P. M. The equipment returns to Richmond morning and afternoon on the "Cannon Ball" schedule.

Supreme Court Proceedings.

The following cases were argued yesterday in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Newtons' Survival—Exor vs. White, who was arrested at Marion, Va., and sued for damages by J. S. New Smith for appeal, and submitted.

Hicks' Rep. vs. Roanoke—Party argued by Judge J. M. Gregory and continued until Friday.

Having taken Thursday as a holiday, the court will hold a special argument to determine whether or not it is in order for conference sessions between the judges, but it was announced yesterday that the argument desired would be called this morning.

Cases in call over No. 15—Haden against Phillips; No. 16—Reichenbach against Hall; No. 17—Haden against Hall; No. 18—Haden against Hall; No. 19—Haden against Hall; No. 20—Haden against Hall; No. 21—Haden against Hall; No. 22—Haden against Hall; No. 23—Haden against Hall; No. 24—Haden against Hall; No. 25—Haden against Hall; No. 26—Haden against Hall; No. 27—Haden against Hall; No. 28—Haden against Hall; No. 29—Haden against Hall; No. 30—Haden against Hall; No. 31—Haden against Hall; No. 32—Haden against Hall; No. 33—Haden against Hall; No. 34—Haden against Hall; No. 35—Haden against Hall; No. 36—Haden against Hall; No. 37—Haden against Hall; No. 38—Haden against Hall; No. 39—Haden against Hall; No. 40—Haden against Hall; No. 41—Haden against Hall; No. 42—Haden against Hall; No. 43—Haden against Hall; No. 44—Haden against Hall; No. 45—Haden against Hall; No. 46—Haden against Hall; No. 47—Haden against Hall; No. 48—Haden against Hall; No. 49—Haden against Hall; No. 50—Haden against Hall; 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